

Learning about Career Clusters

Theme and Level

Theme: Research Options

Level: Getting Started

At a Glance

Students research a career cluster, create a poster, and present what they learned to the class.

Time: 75 minutes.

Essential Questions

- What career clusters interest me?
- What should I study in high school to pursue occupations and clusters that interest me?

Preparation

- Reserve computer lab with overhead projector enabled
- Establish CIS portfolios before this lesson
- Print *Career Clusters Poster Worksheet*, one per student

Steps

1. Show PowerPoint (PPT) Slide 1. Inform students that the goal of this lesson is for them to learn about career clusters.
2. Ask if anyone can define the term "career cluster."
3. Show PPT Slide 2. Review the CIS definition for career cluster.
4. Explain that CIS organizes occupations into groups called clusters. Clusters can help you learn more about occupations and can help you see the commonality among several occupations as well as the relationship between what you do in school and occupations that interest you.
5. Show PPT Slide 3. Ask student to think about reading maps in social studies.
6. Then ask students to name a few occupations that require map reading.
7. Show PPT Slide 4. Ask students to guess in what cluster or clusters these occupations might be found. Answer: Pilots and Truck Drivers read maps in the Transportation, Distribution, and Logistics cluster. Environmental Engineers and Foresters read maps in the Agriculture, Food, and Natural Resources cluster.
8. Show PPT Slide 5. Introduce and distribute the *Career Clusters Poster Worksheet*, explaining the instructions and your expectations for due date and presentation.
9. Show students how to research clusters in CIS in order to identify clusters of interest and begin their projects.
10. Use the remaining class time to begin research for this career cluster poster project.

Variations and Accommodations

- Complete poster in class across two periods.
- Complete posters in pairs. Ensure one poster is created for each of the 16 career clusters.
- Work one-on-one with any student needing special assistance or pair student with a helpful partner.

Assessment

Use the *Learning about Career Clusters Scoring Guide* to evaluate student work.

Portfolio

Students enter their reflections about this activity in the **What career clusters interest you now?** text box in the Research Options section of Education Career Plan.

Materials

Computer lab with overhead projector and CIS access

[Learning about Career Clusters \(PPTX\)](#)

[Career Clusters Poster Worksheet \(PDF\)](#)

[Career Clusters Poster Worksheet \(DOCX\)](#)

[Learning about Career Clusters Scoring Guide \(PDF\)](#)

[Learning about Career Clusters Scoring Guide \(DOCX\)](#)

Goals and Standards

Common Core State Standards

- English Language Arts Career Anchor: Reading Informational Text
- English Language Arts Career Anchor: Language
- Mathematical Practice: Look for an Make Use of Structure

National Career Development Guidelines

- GOAL CM3 Use accurate, current and unbiased career information during career planning and management.

American School Counselor Association

- Career Development, Academic Development

Bloom's Taxonomy: Analyzing, Creating

American School Counselor Association (ASCA) Mindsets and Behaviors for Student Success

Mindset Standards

- Sense of Belonging in the School Environment

Behavior Standards: Learning Strategies

- Demonstrate Critical-Thinking Skills to Make Informed Decisions
- Apply Self-Motivation and Self-Direction to Learning
- Apply Media and Technology Skills

Behavior Standards: Social Skills

- Use Effective Oral and Written Communication Skills and Listening Skills
- Demonstrate Advocacy Skills and Ability to Assert Self, when Necessary